

July 16, 2010

Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Title of Hearing: SOCIAL SECURITY AT 75 YEARS

Dear Members of The Committee on Ways and Means,

I am a 2nd grade elementary school teacher. This is my second career. I entered teaching because I love kids. I have patience, a sense of humor, and I am a very hard working professional. I love to see students succeed academically, socially, and personally.

I did not know that when I reached retirement that I would be punished for switching careers. The Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision will potentially reduce my Social Security Benefit by up to \$4,572 per year. I have paid into Social Security for over 30 years, from the age of 16, and yet I do not qualify for my full benefits.

Additionally, my other “hero’s penalty” is that should my husband, five years my senior, predecease me I am not entitled to his Social Security Benefits.

I have been writing to my legislators for the last eight years regarding these unfair laws, and year after year I see the social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 235/2, 484) remain stuck in committee – as it is again this year.

These unfair laws are discouraging talented people from entering teaching and other public service occupations.

Please pass the Social Security Fairness Act to repeal the WEP and GPO.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Harris
CA